

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 BIB-01 /072 W

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R 210716Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1282

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

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STATE PLEASE PASS USIA FOR IAA MCGINLEY

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SEDU, WA

SUBJECT: BROADCAST OF VOA ENGLISH LANGUAGE LESSONS TO NAMIBIA

REF: USUN 4252, STATE 236671, LUSAKA 2445, CAPE TOWN 696

1. DURING RECENT LUNCHEON AT RESIDENCE, UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA SEAN MCBRIDE AGAIN RAISED POSSIBILITY OF BROADCASTING TO NAMIBIA ENGLISH LANGUAGE LESSONS. MCBRIDE STATED, AND SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA WHO WAS PRESENT CONFIRMED, THAT ENGLISH IS BEING INCREASINGLY USED BY NAMIBIAN NATIONALISTS AS LINGUA FRANCA. MCBRIDE EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT VOA AS WELL AS BBC MIGHT BE ABLE TO BEAM ENGLISH LESSONS TO NAMIBIA IN ORDER HELP FACILITATE THIS OBJECTIVE. POINT WAS ALSO MADE THAT BY INCREASING ENGLISH LANGUAGE
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FLUENCY AMONG NAMIBIANS GREATER NUMBER OF THESE

WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER DIRECTLY OR WITH
RELATIVELY BRIEF PERIOD OF ADVANCED LANGUAGE
TRAINING INTO UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
IN US AND IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES LIKE ZAMBIA WHERE
ENGLISH IS LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION.

2. UNLIKE EARLIER REQUEST BY MCBRIDE TO AMB
WHITE REPORTED USUN REFTTEL, MCBRIDE DID NOT
ASK FOR LOAN OF VOA ENGLISH LESSON TAPES TO
SWAPO FOR BROADCAST OVER RADIO ZAMBIA. ACCORDINGLY,
WE SEE NO POLITICAL OBJECTION AND IN FACT FIND
CONSIDERABLE MERIT IN EXAMINING SYMPATHETICALLY
WHETHER VOA CAN BE RESPONSIVE TO MCBRIDE REQUEST.
ENGLISH TEACHING BROADCASTS BEAMED TO NAMIBIA
OVER VOA WOULD AVOID IDENTIFICATION WITH SWAPO
WHICH WAS PRIMARY OBJECTION TO EARLIER MCBRIDE
REQUEST. THEY WOULD HAVE POLITICAL ADVANTAGE OF
DEMONSTRATING USG READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH
COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA IN AN AREA WHERE
OUR ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE PRACTICAL IMPACT AND
WOULD NOT IDENTIFY US WITH ANY ONE POLITICAL GROUP
WITHIN NAMIBIA. MOREOVER, BY HELPING NAMIBIANS
WHO WISH TO DO SO TO IMPROVE THEIR KNOWLEDGE
OF ENGLISH WE WILL BE INCREASING RESERVOIR OF
THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO PROFIT FAIRLY PROMPTLY
FROM TECHNICAL AND OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.
NEIGHBORING ANGOLANS AND OTHERS IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA WOULD OF COURSE SIMILARLY BENEFIT.

3. URGE DEPARTMENT EXPLORE WITH USIA AND VOA
POSSIBILITIES FOR INITIATING ENGLISH LANGUAGE
TEACHING BROADCASTS BEAMED TO NAMIBIA. N.B.
MCBRIDE ASSURED US VOA SIGNAL FROM MONROVIA IS
RECEIVED CLEARLY IN NAMIBIA.

4. USIS CONCURS IN EXPLORING FEASIBILITY THIS
PROPOSAL.
NELSON

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